

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 /069 W

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R 201558Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1893

INFO 16TH AF TORREJON

JUSMAAG MADRID

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAFE

CINCUSNAVEUR

US MISSION NATO 594

UNCLAS MADRID 3436

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, SP

SUBJ: PRESS SPECULATION ON BASE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: MADRID 2815

1. SPANISH PRESS HAS BEEN PROVIDING PROMINENT COVERAGE TO NEWS REPORTS EMANATING FROM U.S. PRESS OVER CURRENT STATE OF SPANISH/U.S. BASE NEGOTIATIONS. BASIC SPECULATION IS THAT NEGOTIATIONS HAVE REACHED IMPASSE AND THAT PRESIDENT HAS DECIDED TO ACCEPT INVITATION TO VISIT SPAIN IN ORDER TO CREATE CLIMATE NECESSARY TO GET TALKS MOVING AGAIN, FIVE ROUNDS HAVING THUS FAR TAKEN PLACE WITHOUT BREAKTHROUGH IN BASIC ISSUES. OTHER THEMES ARE INCREASED SPANISH BARGAINING POWER IN CURRENT WORLD CIRCUMSTANCES, FACT THE U.S. FOREIGN POLICY IS NOW MORE OF SHARED UNDERTAKING BETWEEN EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES THAN PREVIOUSLY, AND UNPOPULARITY OF BASES.

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2. IN ARTICLE APPEARING MAY 15 EDITION OF CATHOLIC

BAILY 'YA' CORRESPONDENT GUSTABO VALVERDE STATES THAT OFFICIAL U.S. SOURCES--INCLUDING THOSE IN AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY'S OFFICE-- MAINTAIN MAXIMUM CAUTION IN REFERRING TO IMPASSE. HOWEVER, "INFORMATION EMANATING FROM U.S. PRESS LEAVES NO ROOM FOR DOUBT OVER COMPLICATED STATE OF AFFAIRS WHICH PERIODIC CONTACT BETWEEN TWO GOVTs HAS EXPERIENCED.

3. OTHER PRESS REPORTS FROM U.S. ARE CITED, INCLUDING RECENT ACOCA ARTICLE IN WASHINGTON POST AS WELL AS ARTICLES IN TIME, POST, AND BALTIMORE SUN WHICH DISCUSS IMPLICATIONS ON BASE NEGOTIATIONS OF IMPENDING SPANISH SUCCESSION AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN MEDITERRANEAN AND SOUTHEAST ASIA.

4. EDITORIAL IN MAY 12 ISSUE OF WEEKLY "ACTUALIDAD ESPANOLA" NOTES PRESS REPORTS THAT, IN LIGHT OF RECENT UNFAVORABLE INTERNATIONAL EVENTS, VIEW IN U.S. IS THAT RELATIONS WITH SPAIN SHOULD BE CLOSER. EDITORIAL GOES ON TO OBSERVE THAT WHILE IT IS FINE FOR U.S. TO BELIEVE SPAIN MIGHT BE GOOD AND FAITHFUL ALLY, IN REALITY, SPANISH PEOPLE PREFER THAT THEY BE LEFT TO LIVE THEIR OWN LIVES, THAT CERTAIN GREAT POWERS FORGET THEM A LITTLE INSTEAD OF BEING EXCESSIVELY PREOCCUPIED WITH THEM, SINCE KINDNESS CAN KILL."

5. EDITORIAL IN MAY 18 EDITION OF "YA" EMPHASIZES THAT NEW AGREEMENT SHOULD PROVIDE SPAIN POSSIBILITIES FOR INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT AND THEREFORE SHOULD BE SOMETHING MORE THAN MEANS FOR U.S. TO SHOW OFF ITS OWN GIMCRACKS. EDITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGES IMPOSSIBILITY FOR SPAIN'S MEMBERSHIP IN NATO NOW, BUT AT SAME TIME NOTES UNPOPULARITY OF U.S. BASES, OBSERVING THAT SPANISH PEOPLE "WILL BREATHE SIGH OF RELIEF ONCE THEY DISAPPEAR." IN ANY CASE, WITHOUT BASIC MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC, INDUSTRIAL, AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION, BASES HAVE NO REASON TO EXIST AND SHOULD DISAPPEAR.

6. FINALLY, IN EDITORIAL PUBLISHED MAY 13 IN MONARCHIST DAILY "ABC," SPAIN'S FORMER AMBASSADOR TO U.S. ANTONIO GARRIGUES (REFTEL MADRID USINFO 2815) NOTED SECRETARY KISSINGER'S COMMENTS TO EFFECT THAT FOREIGN POLICY MUST NOW UNCLASSIFIED

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BE SHARED UNDERTAKING BETWEEN EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATURE, THAT WHILE EXECUTIVE AGREEMENTS HAD FULL FORCE IN TIME DURING HEGEMONY OF PRESIDENT, THEY NOW HAVE BECOME MORE PROBLEMATICAL SINCE AGREEMENT OF BOTH EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE POWERS IS NECESSARY IN WHATEVER INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT REACHED. "THIS", GARRIGUES NOTES, "IS IMPORTANT FOR SPAIN AT THIS HOUR".
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY BASE AGREEMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MADRID03436
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750177-0767
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750536/aaaabgfs.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MADRID 2815
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 NOV 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 NOV 2003 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <12 JAN 2004 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS SPECULATION ON BASE NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: MARR, PFOR, SP, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006